



**JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER
AND FORT POLK
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
*Press Release***



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Fort Polk's Library and Education Center to hold Grand Opening

Fort Polk, La. - JRTC and Fort Polk will hold a Grand Opening Ceremony to mark the completion of the consolidated Library and Education Center, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., on Tuesday September 21st, 2004.

The ceremony marks the end of a thirty-eight month endeavor to complete one of Fort Polk's finest service facilities for Soldiers, families, retirees and civilians. The 63,750 square foot, 10 million dollar building consolidates facilities that were housed in nine different locations and improves the quality of life for more than 36, 000 people who live and work on Fort Polk.

Its central location and 33 state of the art classrooms provide Soldiers, their families and Fort Polk's civilian work force convenient access to the Allen Library, Education Division, Army Schools and Digital Training Facility (DTF), Language Training Facility (LTF), and Civilian Personnel Activity Center (CPAC). The education division provides Soldiers Tuition Assistance (TA), Leadership Skills Enhancement Program (LSEP), Testing, Functional Academic Skills Training (FAST), Army Learning Center/MOS Library and educational guidance counselors.

The Army Schools Digital Training Facility (DTF) offers courses for Emergency Medical Technician, Nuclear, Biological, and chemical (NBC) Defense, Bus Driver, Computer and Distributive Learning Systems (DLS).

CPAC will use the facility to house it's civilian personnel training courses and the Language Training Facility will offer lessons in Persian, Farsi and French.

The Allen library consists of over 17,000 square feet and is open 7 days a week. It boasts not only a larger selection of books and audiovisual materials but now has test preparation and career guides, reference and information assistance, Inter-Library Loan Service, 48 Internet Computers, access to over 22 Online Research Databases, a story time program for children, adult programs and a wonderful "children's' room" for the kids. The new library is expected to serve over 14, 000 people weekly.

During the Grand Opening ceremony, all classes and Library activities will be closed. Normal classes and activities will resume at 2 p.m.

MEDIA ADVISORY:

Media are welcome to attend. Meet no later than 10:30 a.m., Friday, Sept. 20 at the Fort Polk public affairs office. Call Ron Elliott at (337) 531-1418 or Samantha Bingham at (337) 531-4630 if you are planning to attend.